IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Patent Application of:

Korkor et al.

For: Catheter Introducer Having an Expandable Tip

Priority: Continuation-In-Part of U.S. Pat. App. 09/896,035, filed June 29, 2001

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop Patent Application Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This information disclosure statement is being submitted simultaneously with the filing of the above application under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 and § 1.98. The Examiner is hereby informed that prior art was cited during prosecution of co-pending application Serial No. 09/896,035, filed June 29, 2001, entitled "Catheter Introducer Having an Expandable Tip," on which priority is claimed in the present application. Submission of this prior art is believed to be excused under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d).

In addition, applicants submit one additional reference, U.S. Patent No. 3,877,429, which was discovered during prosecution of the parent application and the International Search Report and references cited in a corresponding PCT International Application No. PCT/US02/20492. The International Search Report, dated February 6, 2003 is enclosed, along with the references listed on the attached "Information Disclosure Statement By Applicant" PTO Form 1449.

Respectfully submitted,

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Form PTO-1449 (Modified) Atty. Docket No.: Serial No.: Page 1 of 1 155.015 Unassigned LIST OF PATENTS AND PUBLICATIONS FOR APPLICANT'S INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (Use several sheets if necessary) Applicant: Korkor et al. Filing Date: Filed Group: Unassigned simultaneously herewith REFERENCE DESIGNATION **U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS** Examiner Document Number Date Name Class Subclass Filing Date If Initial Appropriate AA3,877,429 4/15/1975 Rasumoff 6,183,443 Kratoska et al. AB 2/6/2001 AC AD ΑE AF AG AH ΑI ΑJ ΑK ΑL FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS Document Number Date Country Class Subclass Translation Yes No WO 00/69350 11/23/2000 **PCT** X AM AN WO 99/17665 4/15/1999 **PCT** X WO 98/29026 7/9/1998 X AO **PCT** 4/22/1983 AP 0 093 101 X Europe AQ OTHER ART (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.) AQ AR AS AT **EXAMINER** DATE CONSIDERED

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.